

HOLLINGBOURN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1938

ON

The Health of the
Hollingbourn Rural District

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,

M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE
Hollingbourn Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,

M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

CHAS. W. PAGE,

C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

PETER H. WHITE, (Appointed 1/4/1938).

C.R.San.I.

ASSISTANT TO SANITARY INSPECTORS:

LESLIE W. ROGERS.

CLERK:

Miss J. W. TURNER.

HOLLINGBOURN RURAL DISTRICT.

Report of

The Medical Officer of Health,

for the Year ended December 31st, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLLINGBOURN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Hollingbourn Rural District for the year 1938.

The health of the District has in general been good, and there has been a happy absence of epidemic disease and in particular a diminution of the number of cases of scarlet fever to 15 cases as against 26 in 1937 and 33 in 1936, while the cases of diphtheria numbered 4, which is one more than last year.

Some progress has been made in the provision of houses, but I still urge that further activity in the provision of housing for the rural workers is needed, particularly in the direction of re-construction and re-conditioning of the existing cottages. Improvement in the public water supply is needed in many parts of the district. At Ulcombe, I am glad to record that measures for the obtaining of a safe supply are soon to be effected, and in other parts of the area, the extension of the public mains is urgently needed. Improved means of purification and disposal of sewage are urgently needed in the larger villages and in parts of the area which are rapidly taking on an urban character and again I would call your attention to the need for collection and disposal of house refuse in many parts of the district. The present conditions, under which refuse is either deposited on open dumps, which are breeding places for flies and rats, or flung into the ditches and woods, there to become an offence to eyes and nose and a danger to children, are a menace to the public health and a reproach to its custodians.

The regular examination of milk samples is of assistance in safeguarding this important food-stuff and a protection to the health of the children, but the inspection and supervision of other foods, especially meat, is still far short of what I would desire and cannot be extended with the small staff which is available.

The demands which have been made on the time of your Officers, by the additional duties which have been thrust upon them by the insistence of Air Raid Precautions, have been a hindrance in the carrying out of public health work and for the fact that this Report is late in publication, the blame must be laid on A.R.P.

I should like to thank my colleagues on the Staff and the medical practitioners in the district for the help and co-operation I have received during the year, and,

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,

13, TONBRIDGE ROAD,
MAIDSTONE.

Medical Officer of Health.

August 8th, 1939.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	56,710 Acres.
Estimated Resident Population, 1938	14,000
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	4,425
Rateable Value	£74,795
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£310

The Hollingbourn Rural District is very largely an agricultural area, mainly devoted to the growing of fruit and hops, with a considerable amount of dairying. The urban communities which are found in the district are mainly dependent on the farming community for their prosperity and draw their vitality from the soil. The past year has been a fairly successful one and the advances which have been made in the storage and preserving of fruit have been of great benefit to the district. There is no definite evidence that unemployment has been of significance in its effect on the health or physique of the inhabitants and where poor physique or malnutrition is discovered it is generally found that the families are urban dwellers who have migrated to the country, frequently from ill-health or disablement, and who are endeavouring to wrest a living from a small holding or to exist on a pension or disablement allowance. Agricultural wages are below the level usually paid in the towns but in Kent, are above the average paid to farm workers in other counties, and the amenities of life are more adequately provided in the Kentish villages than in other farming areas. Kent is becoming more largely a county to which the urban worker comes for holidays and there is an increasing tendency for any vacant cottages to be taken from their legitimate use to serve as week-end dwellings for visitors from London,

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS—							Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	187	101	86
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...							13.7		
STILLBIRTHS—							10	7	3
Rate per 1,000 (Total live and still) births							49.5		
DEATHS—							170	85	85
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...							10.1		
Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) :—									
							Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age ;—									
All infants, per 1,000 live births							...	...	46.9
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births							...	...	48.1
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births							...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)...							...	...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...							...	...	24
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...							...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ..							...	...	2

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. (i) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY. The list of these is given at the beginning of this report.

(ii) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. As has been stated in the reports for previous years, this service is provided by the Kent County Council. During the year, the laboratory has extended the work done in the examination of samples of milk and of water.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The St. John's Ambulance Corps at Maidstone and at Lenham has continued the excellent service given to the community for sickness and accident cases. For cases of infectious disease, there is an ambulance provided at the hospital belonging to the Maidstone Rural District Council, to which cases from the Hollingbourn Rural District are sent, but the defect in the ambulance arrangements, which leaves the transport of septic cases or cases of puerperal fever unprovided for and to which I drew attention in last year's report, has not yet been remedied.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. In practically all the parishes of the Rural District, a service for home nursing is maintained by the local Nursing Associations, which are affiliated to the Kent County Nursing Association.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS. These are not provided by the Rural District Council. School Clinics, Dental and Ophthalmic Clinics, Clinics for the diagnosis and treat-

ment of Tuberculosis and V.D. and the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are all included in the health services provided by the Kent County Council.

(e) **HOSPITALS, PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.** The County Hospitals and the voluntary hospitals at Maidstone and Chatham are very widely used by the inhabitants of the Rural District. The only hospital actually belonging to the Hollingbourn R.D.C. is that at Harps Wood, which was originally designed as an infectious diseases hospital and, in the County Council's scheme for the Isolation Hospitals of the County, this is now designated as the Small-pox Hospital for a group of Authorities, including the City of Rochester, the Boroughs of Maidstone, Chatham and Gillingham and the Rural Districts of Maidstone, Maidstone and Hollingbourn. Some of the Authorities concerned are not enamoured of the proposal and, in its present state, the hospital is not satisfactory in accommodation or equipment and could not be brought into use without difficulty and delay, lacking as it does adequate quarters for nurses and facilities for lighting and heating.

3. The Hollingbourn R.D.C. is not the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the district.

4. The Authority for the registration etc. of Nursing Homes in the district is the Kent County Council.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) **WATER.** The Hollingbourn Rural District is supplied with main water by the Mid-Kent Water Company, in a large part of the area, while the South Kent Water Company and the Rainham Water Company serve parts of the district. In the parishes where the mains of these Companies have been extended, a supply of water, very satisfactory both in quantity and quality, is available, but there is still need of extension of the public supply to parts of Bredhurst and Boxley, Boughton Malherbe, Thurnham and Chart Sutton. The lack of the main water is in some cases due to the small population and scattered dwellings in an area but in others there has been a delay in the extension of the mains which is not easy to understand. The public supply at Ulcombe was mentioned in the last report and during 1938, regular sampling of this water revealed that it was unsafe and very variable in quality and liable to contamination. I made a special report to the District Council and suggested that either the Company's mains should be extended to serve Ulcombe parish, or the existing supply should be chemically purified and sterilised in order to render it safe. I am glad to say that the Committee appointed to consider my report and suggestions decided that the method of extending the mains and thus ensuring a satisfactory supply,

though more costly, was the more desirable and I hope that it will not be long before the supply at Ulcombe will be from the Company's mains and this constant source of anxiety to the Health Department will be removed. Parts of the Rural District are still dependent for their water on local streams and ponds or on rain-water tanks and this question of the provision of sufficient and safe water for the poorer and less populous parishes calls for broad vision and a realisation that health and sanitation are not merely parochial matters but concern the whole community and, as the concern of the community, should not be a charge only on the parishes, but call for contribution from the Rural District, the County and even from the National Exchequer.

The provision of a sufficient supply of water for the hop-pickers' encampments has been a source of difficulty. Where the main water is not available, efforts are made each year to obtain an improvement in the supplies available. Filtration of supplies taken from streams and chlorination of pond water are among the expedients that have been adopted and in some camps, water still has to be carted to supply the pickers. These make-shift supplies are the best that can be done at present and constant care and watchfulness are needed to ensure that the safe-guards provided are indeed used, for hop-pickers are notoriously careless, but I hope that it may be possible to have the mains extended to supply these parts of the district.

The supplies from the Companies' mains are controlled, as to chemical and bacteriological purity, by the regular examination of samples and the results of these examinations are tabulated at the end of this report.

1. (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. There were no extensions to the system of drainage and sewerage during the year. In several parts of the Rural District, where building is going on or is projected, this question of drainage is becoming very pressing and the multiplication of cess-pits in what are becoming built-up areas cannot be allowed to continue unchecked. Works for the disposal of sewage are in existence at Headcorn, at Lenham and at Sutton Valence and further works are needed at Harrietsham, at Hollingbourn and Leeds and at Boxley, especially in the Ware Street area, and along the Chatham Road, where a new suburb of Maidstone is arising, without any means of sewage disposal other than cess-pits. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue and grow, the reckoning is likely to be costly and sorrowful.

C. 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. The Len, a tributary of the Medway into which it discharges at Maidstone, is the principal stream draining the district and this stream is undoubtedly polluted in its course, especially at Hollingbourn and Harrietsham, where sewage disposal works are needed.

The Beult at Headcorn is also affected but there has been an improvement in the state of this stream.

C. 3. (i) There is no reasonably accurate information available as to the number or type of sanitary conveniences in the district. During the year, 37 privies were abolished and gradual improvement of the type of sanitary convenience is being obtained. Three houses were provided with new W.C.'s during the year.

C. 3. (ii) There are no extensions or improvements of public cleansing to report and this is one of the points on which I must urge that action is necessary. There is no public provision for the emptying of cess-pools and during the year 42 such were emptied and cleansed under private arrangements. But with the absence of sewerage arrangements and the steady increase in the number of new houses, each with its cess-pool, it is increasingly necessary that there should be some public provision of means of emptying the cess-pools, and cess-pools which are not impervious should be prohibited. On the urgency of some scheme for the collection and disposal of house refuse, I have commented in previous reports and this is a matter to which attention will have to be given in the near future. In some parishes, dumps for the rubbish have been provided but these are not supervised and controlled but steadily become more unsightly and unpleasing, until money is expended on a tidying-up, after which the process of disfiguring the place with refuse is resumed. There is a large and increasing amount of household refuse and much of it is the metal containers in which modern food is sold, and these do not disintegrate. Where the dumps are provided, this refuse is slung out in a haphazard manner, provides a breeding place for rats and flies and often the dump catches fire. And where the dump is at any distance, the refuse is too often deposited in the nearest ditch or copse, and all over the district, one can see the fouling of the country-side by this rubbish. The provision of dumps alone is of no avail: there has to be some system of collection and disposal, I would commend to the Council the system of "Controlled tipping," which can provide for the disposal of refuse without the need for elaborate incineration plant, but I must sound a warning that controlled tipping is not merely a system of dump-and-cover, but a careful and planned method of utilising the refuse, which in some districts, with the requisite care and supervision, is reclaiming waste land and providing assets for the community from the household refuse.

C. 3. (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Appended below is the report of the Sanitary Inspector, as required by Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers, (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19, (15) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926 :—

Report of

The Sanitary Inspector,

for the Year ended 31st December, 1938.

HOUSING. The new year saw the completion of your Scheme of building of 32 new houses to re-house the occupants of over-crowded dwellings in the District and of 6 new houses to complete your Slum Clearance programme.

The work of measuring the rooms of cottages in the District was carried on during the year and at the 31st December, 112 cottages had been measured and certificates of permitted Numbers issued. With the 509 already measured at the end of 1937, the total was 621.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS. There are 133 registered milk traders in your District, of whom 16 are licensed to produce Accredited Milk and 2 to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk.

One new licence to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk was issued by the Kent County Council to an Accredited producer in your District and three producers of Accredited Milk have abandoned their licences during the year.

Sixty three samples of graded milks were taken, all of morning production. The outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease in March and November affected your District for several weeks, during which sampling was stopped.

The cowsheds and dairies in your District are generally very satisfactory and the standard of cleanliness in methods of milking and the handling of the milk continues to improve.

The 133 Milk Traders are classified as follows :—

- 40 Cowkeepers, Wholesale and Retail Purveyors.
- 71 Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors.
- 12 Cowkeepers and Retail Purveyors.
- 10 Retail Purveyors.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924. Carcasses Inspected and Condemned :—

		Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	...	600	20	10	500	13,000
Number Inspected	... ..	120	4	2	100	500
ALL DISEASES, EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.						
Whole Carcasses Condemned	...	—	—	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was Condemned	...	2	—	—	—	22
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	2%	—	—	—	5%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.						
Whole Carcasses Condemned	...	—	—	—	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	3	—	—	—	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	... ..	3%	—	—	—	3%

It will be observed from this table that of all the animals slaughtered for human consumption in your District the percentage inspected is 20% for cattle and sheep and 5% for pigs. This, of course, cannot be regarded as satisfactory but with a very limited staff qualified to do this work it is all that can be inspected. There is more than enough work for one full time Meat Inspector in the District.

HOP-PICKERS' ENCAMPMENTS. It is very satisfactory to be able to report still better conditions in the camps in your District although there are still 4 camps at which further improvement of the water supply is necessary.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. There were no extensions of Sewers during the year. Three houses at Headcorn and two at Lenham were connected to the Sewer.

NEW BUILDINGS. 168 plans of new buildings, alterations, additions, etc., were considered during the year. Of these 108 were approved, 54 were approved subject to certain conditions under the Planning Scheme, and 6 were disapproved. The 6 disapproved were all for non-compliance with your Planning Scheme, and were approved after amendment and re-submission.

WATER SUPPLY. Ninety one samples of water were taken during the year, the following table shows the results obtained.

Source	Good waters	Contaminated waters
Main Water	51	5
Rainwater tanks	1	4
Wells	10	4
Springs	4	8
Hop-picker's Encampments ...	3	1

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS—GENERAL.

Water supply...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	194
Tents, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Building Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	693
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	222

HOUSING.

Public Health	Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Housing	Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
	Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	387
Overcrowding	Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
	Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Verminous	Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
	Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	509

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS.

Inquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33

FOOD.

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Other premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	209
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hop Encampments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115

SAMPLES.

Milk—Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91

3,141

General Statistics.

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Houses provided with drains or drains reconstructed	...	...	24
House drains cleansed or repaired...	...	...	26
Houses provided with new w.c.'s	...	...	3
New stoneware sinks with trapped wastes provided	...	...	29
Sinks provided with trapped wastes	...	...	21
New stoneware gullies provided	...	...	14
Sink gullies repaired...	...	...	10
New inspection chambers provided	...	...	—
New cesspools constructed and ventilated	...	...	26
New earth closets constructed	...	...	2
New privies constructed	...	...	—
Privy pits reconstructed and ventilated	...	...	—
Cesspools and privy pits emptied and cleansed	...	...	42
Privies abolished	...	...	37
Water closets repaired	...	...	3
Pail closets repaired	...	...	12
Pail closets constructed	...	...	23
New baths provided	...	...	—
Dampness remedied	...	...	43
Roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	46
Floors and ceilings repaired...	...	...	94
Refuse removed on complaint	...	...	19
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	6
Windows or doors repaired or renewed	...	...	160
Smoky flues remedied	...	...	1
Staircases repaired	...	...	22
Defective grates and ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	42
Defective coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	8
Walls repaired	...	...	52
Air gratings provided	...	...	8

WATER SUPPLIES.

Total number of houses in District supplied with main water	3,116
Houses connected to mains during 1938	113
Wells examined	14
Wells repaired	—
New rainwater tanks with filters constructed	2
Rainwater tanks examined	5
Rainwater tanks repaired and cleansed	3
Water samples taken... ..	91

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Premises cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	90
Premises repaired or re-constructed	16

BAKEHOUSES.

Premises cleansed and limewashed	5
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SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Premises cleansed and limewashed	12
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KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

Animals so kept as to cause a nuisance	—
Pigstye nuisances abated	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Number of notifications	...	...	...	...	...	37
Medical Certificates received	...	...	...	...	...	36
Visits made to infected houses	...	...	...	...	...	33
Rooms disinfected and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	45
					and 1 motor van	
Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	19

CHAS. W. PAGE,

Sanitary Inspector.

C. 3. (iv) No action was taken during 1938 under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to temperature and ventilation of shops and to sanitary conveniences. Below is a tabular statement showing the Inspections made of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, showing the defects found, the action taken and the result.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power...	23	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	85	14	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkes' premises ...	120	—	—
Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories			
Total	228	14	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK-PLACES.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S. 6)	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences {insufficient (S. 7) {unsuitable or defective {not separate for sexes	1 — —	1 — —	— — —	— — —
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops, Transfer of Powers), Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)	8	8	—	—
Total	14	14	—	—

C. 3. (v) CAMPING SITES.

(i) There is one regular camping site in the area which is used throughout the season and caters for summer campers and members of the camping clubs. In other places there are occasional campers but these are not on regularly used camping sites.

(ii) One licence for a camping site has been issued by the Local Authority, under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(iii) The estimated number of campers resident in the area at any one time during the summer season, 1938, was 12. This is of course, campers as such and does not include imported labour for hop-picking.

C. 3. (vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action has been necessary during 1938.

C. 3. (vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. There are no public swimming baths, or privately owned swimming baths

or pools, which are open to the public, in the district. At Sutton Valence School, there is now an open-air swimming bath, for which plant for the filtration and purification of the water has been installed and the results obtained are satisfactory.

C. 3. (viii) ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

(1.) (a) No Council houses were found to be infested with bugs during the year.

(b) Two other houses were found to be infested and both these were disinfested. In one case, the bedding and furniture were destroyed.

(2) The method employed for freeing the houses from vermin is by spraying with an insecticide, the one employed being a proprietary preparation, called "Zaldecide." As mentioned above, bedding and furniture in one case was so heavily infested that it had to be destroyed by burning.

(3) Houses of the families to be allotted Council houses are inspected for the presence of vermin before the removal.

(4) The work in connection with disinfestation is carried out by the Staff of the Local Authority.

(5) Cases found to be infested and cleansed are visited and supervised to prevent re-infestation and advice and information as to the methods of avoiding or overcoming infestation are given.

C. 4. SCHOOLS. There are 21 Public Elementary Schools in the district and these are supervised by the Education Authority, the Kent County Education Committee which is also responsible for the medical and dental inspection and treatment of the school children. The schools are, for the most part, housed in satisfactory and hygienic buildings and are supplied with water from the public mains. The other schools in the area include the Public School at Sutton Valence where the buildings are spacious and modern, the New Herrlingen School at Otterden, and the Red Hill School, East Sutton.

School closure on account of infectious disease has not been resorted to or been necessary during the past year and I hope that such closure will not be considered desirable in the future, for I am certain that such measures are not only of no help, but an actual hindrance in the control of infectious disease and indeed I am not convinced that the exclusion of contacts from school is of any value, for there is no means of ensuring isolation or limiting the movement of children, free from the discipline of school hours.

The Head Teachers send to the M.O.H. notifications of children suffering from, or suspected to be suffering from, infectious diseases and their school notifications are of great value and are often the first warning received of the existence of an outbreak.

SECTION D.

Housing.

During the year, 38 new houses were completed by the Local Authority, 32 to complete the provision for the re-housing of over-crowded families and 6 to complete the scheme for the replacement of unfit dwellings. New houses built by private enterprise totalled 93.

The information regarding housing in the Rural District is set out in the form in which it is asked for by the Ministry of Health. Other details in connection with housing will be found in the report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	276
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	352
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	210
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	387
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	205

2. Remedy of Defects during the year, without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	84
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—									
(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—									
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—									
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding :—									
(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	62
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	339½
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	194
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

E. (a) MILK SUPPLY. Inspections of the cowsheds and dairies in the district, in all totalling 212, were made during the year. The registered milk traders in the Rural District now number 133, of which 40 are cowkeepers and wholesale and retail purveyors, 71 are cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors, 12 are cowkeepers and retail purveyors and 10 are retail purveyors only. The issue of licences for designated milks is the duty of the County Council, and in the Hollingbourn Rural District, there are 16 registered milk traders licenced to produce accredited milk and 2 for Tuberculin Tested milk. During the year, one producer of accredited milk was given a licence for Tuberculin Tested milk and three producers of accredited milk abandoned their licences in 1938. Regular inspections of the cowsheds and dairies are made and samples of the milk are taken by the Council's Officers for examination at the County Laboratory. In addition, there is a regular sampling of the milk supplied to the Public Elementary Schools in the area, which provides a check on the quality of the milk as delivered to the consumer.

E. (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Inspections of slaughter-houses, and of the meat slaughtered for human food, were carried out as far as possible with the small staff available, but it is not possible to secure that more than a fraction of the meat is inspected. The position with regard to meat inspection is not satisfactory and it is very desirable that there should be an increase in the staff so that further inspection for the safeguarding of the consumers should be done.

The total number of killings in the area cannot be given with any accuracy and can only be an estimate. Details of the amount of meat found to be unfit (a) on account of tuberculosis and (b) on account of other diseases, is given, in the tabular form desired by the Ministry of Health, in the report of the Sanitary Inspector. No meat marking scheme, under Part III. of the Public Health, (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in the district.

E. (c) ADULTERATION. No action has been taken during 1938, under the Food & Drugs, (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations 1923 and 1927, or the Public Health (Preservatives Etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

E. (d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD. These examinations are carried out when necessary at the Kent County Laboratories.

E. (e) No special action has been taken by the Local Authority on the subject of nutrition or the dissemination of knowledge of nutrition or of adequate food values.

E. (d) SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN). There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

SECTION F.

F. 2. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The incidence of infectious disease has not been heavy and there has been nothing in the nature of an epidemic, the highest incidence of notifiable disease in any one parish being 4 cases of scarlet fever. For the treatment of infectious disease, there is an arrangement by which cases from the Hollingbourn R.D. are sent to the hospital belonging to the Maidstone R.D., but this arrangement does not give sufficient accommodation, for only cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria are received in the hospital and there is no accommodation

for fevers of the enteric group, for erysipelas, for complicated cases of measles or for puerperal septic cases. Additional beds for such cases are required and I should urge that more direct interest in the hospital treatment of infectious disease than can be obtained when the cases from the Rural District are merely boarded out in the hospital of another Authority, as at present, is desirable. The Isolation Hospital is not merely for the treatment of cases of infectious disease, but is a part of the armament for dealing with an outbreak and as such, should be more directly associated with the Health Department of the Council.

SCARLET FEVER. Fifteen cases in all were notified, with no deaths and all were admitted to hospital. The disease was of a mild type and the cases were distributed among 7 parishes. In the Tables at the end of the report, I give an analysis of the age-groups in which the cases occurred and also of the parishes of the Rural District from which they came.

The cases of diphtheria numbered 4 and I am glad to say that there were no deaths from this cause. In 1936, the cases of diphtheria were 15, in 1937, 3, and it is probable that we shall see a rise in the incidence of this disease. Again I must comment on the frequency with which I find that there has been delay in the administration of anti-toxin and urge that the use of this remedy should not be allowed to wait for bacteriological confirmation in suspected cases.

The school notifications of actual or suspected infectious disease are of great assistance. Where necessary, swabs are taken from all the contacts of a case.

The use of measures to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria has been proved of real value and efficacy and both in this country and in Canada and the U.S.A., it has been shown that it is possible to reduce the incidence and mortality from this disease to a mere fraction of the former rates. The procedure is simple and causes no disability and I urge that it is most desirable that protection by immunisation should be available for the children in the Rural District. So far, no use of immunisation against diphtheria has been made in the area and I hope that the R.D.C. will take steps to provide facilities for giving this protection and by concerted action with other authorities in this way, will assist in the removal of the risk of diphtheria from the County.

PNEUMONIA. Notifications of pneumonia numbered 3 and the deaths from this cause were 7 in all, so that the notification of this disease cannot be regarded as of any statistical value.

Below is a Table showing the cases of notifiable disease—other than Tuberculosis—which have been reported during the year and in the Tables at the end of the Report will be found an analysis of the notifications and of the deaths from notifiable diseases, according to age groups.

Infectious Diseases.

The notifications of infectious diseases during the past year were as follows :—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever... ..	15	15	—
Diphtheria	4	4	—
Enteric Fever	1	1	—
Pneumonia	3	—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Total	24	20	7

EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS. This service is provided by the Kent County Laboratories and I attach below a Table showing the number of such investigations carried out during the year.

Disease for which examination was made	Results		Total
	Positive	Negative	
Diphtheria	3	135	138
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	7	49	56
Various	4	15	19
Total	14	199	213

F. 3. Deaths from Cancer during 1938.

UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Age Groups				Male	Female
0	...	...	...	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	—
5	...	...	...	—	—
15	...	...	...	—	—
25	...	...	...	—	—
35	...	...	...	—	—
45	...	...	...	2	1
55	...	...	...	4	2
65 and upwards	...	...	...	8	7
Total	...	...	...	14	10

Above is an analysis of the deaths from malignant disease according to age groups. No information is available as to the incidence of cancer in any particular occupation.

F. 4. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action was taken by the Local Authority during the year under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from disease or injury to the eyes. Specialist advice and treatment for ophthalmic diseases and injuries is available at the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone. No cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified during the year.

F. 4. (b) TUBERCULOSIS. No action was taken during the year by the Local Authority, under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

F. 5. Tuberculosis.

Below is a Table showing the new cases of Tuberculosis reported during the year and the mortality from this disease :—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
25	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	1
35	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—
55	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total	6	4	—	3	7	4	1	2

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 7. The number which had not been notified was 1. The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to the total number of Tuberculosis deaths was thus .50 to 1.

Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality for 1938.

	Rate per 1,000 of Population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per each 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	15.1	.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	.04	.01	.03	.07	.11	5.5	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	15.0	.65	11.7	0.00	—	.05	.01	.03	.07	.10	7.8	57
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	15.4	.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	.03	.01	.02	.06	.11	3.6	51
London	13.4	.48	11.4	0.00	—	.06	.01	.03	.05	.06	13.1	57
Hollingbourn R.D.	13.7	.71	10.1	—	—	.07	—	—	—	.14	10.4	47

The maternal mortality rates are as follows:—

		Puerperal Sepsis.			Others.		Total.
Per 1,000 Live Births	England and Wales	...	...	.89	2.19	...	3.08
	Hollingbourn R.D.	...	...	—	—	...	—
Per 1,000 Total Births	England and Wales	...	...	.86	2.11	...	2.97
	Hollingbourn R.D.	...	...	—	—	...	—

Total Deaths, 1938.

HOLLINGBOURN RURAL DISTRICT.

	Causes of Death	M.	F.
	All Causes	85	85
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
2	Measles	—	1
3	Scarlet Fever... ..	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—
6	Influenza	2	—
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	4
10	Other Tuberculosis	1	2
11	Syphilis	0	1
12	General Paralysis of Insane, Tabes, etc....	1	—
13	Cancer	14	10
14	Diabetes	2	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc....	1	5
16	Heart Disease	11	30
17	Aneurysm	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	10	7
19	Bronchitis	4	1
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	5	2
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2
22	Peptic Ulcer	0	2
23	Diarrhœa under 2 years	1	1
24	Appendicitis	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
26	Other Liver Diseases	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	1
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	3
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth etc. ...	4	2
32	Senility	—	2
33	Suicide	1	0
34	Other Violence	5	2
35	Other Defined Diseases	12	6
36	Ill Defined or not known	—	—
	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)		
	Smallpox	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—

Table showing Deaths during each Month in the different Parishes.

Month	Boughton Malherbe	Sutton Valence	Boxley	Bredhurst	Langley	East Sutton	Detling	Leeds and Broomfield	Hucking	Stockbury	Hollingbourn	Thurnham	Ulcombe	Headcorn	Chart Sutton	Fristed	Otterden	Lenham	Harrietsham	Wormshill	Bicknor	Wichling	Totals
January	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	6
February	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	12
March	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	—	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	11
April ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	12
May ...	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	12
June ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
July ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6
August	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
September	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7
October	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	1	—	—	12
November	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	11
December	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	10
Add Transfers	1	3	4	3	3	1	3	4	—	4	5	4	3	10	2	1	—	4	2	1	—	1	59
Totals	2	10	15	4	5	3	6	11	2	13	15	9	10	20	8	2	1	20	11	1	1	1	170

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases.

UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease				Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	3	—	4	2	—	3	—	—	—	15
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	4
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	—	—	1	2	3	1	5	3	1	4	1	3	—	24

Analysis of Deaths of Notifiable Diseases.

UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease				Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	7
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	7

Infectious Diseases notified during the year as apportioned to the different Parishes.

Disease	Leeds	Hollingbourn	Bredhurst	Chart Sutton	Langley	Thurnham	Detling	Headcorn	Boxley	Lenham	Harrietsham	Boughton Malherbe	Stockbury	Sutton Valence	Ulcombe	Totals
Scarlet Fever ...	—	3	2	—	4	1	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	15
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	1	1	1	10
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Enteric Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	2	3	2	3	4	3	3	6	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	37

Chemical Examination of Water.

Sample of Thurnham Water taken at Pumping Station:—

	Parts per 100,000
Ammonia, Free	0.0005
Ammonia Albuminoid	0.0028
Oxygen absorbed at 27°C—in 15 minutes	0.007
" " "—in 4 hours	0.015
Total Solid Residue	20.6
Chlorine	1.85
Nitrogen as Nitrates... ..	0.36
Nitrogen as Nitrites	None
Temporary Hardness in Degrees	6.79
Permanent Hardness in Degrees	3.85
Total Hardness	10.64

Sample of Newnham Water taken at Pumping Station:—

	Parts per 100,000
Ammonia, Free	0.0036
Ammonia Albuminoid	0.0015
Oxygen absorbed at 27°C—in 15 minutes	0.002
" " "—in 4 hours	0.004
Total Solid Residue	18.9
Chlorine	1.90
Nitrogen as Nitrates... ..	0.40
Nitrogen as Nitrites	None
Temporary Hardness in Degrees	8.12
Permanent Hardness in Degrees	2.17
Total Hardness	10.29

Sample of Charing Water taken at Pumping Station:—

	Parts per 100,000
Ammonia, Free	0.0002
Ammonia Albuminoid	0.0017
Oxygen absorbed at 27°C—in 15 minutes	0.003
" " "—in 4 hours	0.007
Total Solid Residue	22.2
Chlorine	2.00
Nitrogen as Nitrates... ..	0.88
Nitrogen as Nitrites	None
Temporary Hardness in Degrees	5.95
Permanent Hardness in Degrees	4.20
Total Hardness	10.15

Bacteriological Examinations of Water.

Mid-Kent Thurnham Supply.
(Taken by Mid-Kent Water Co.)

Date of Examination	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 22°C.	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 37°C.	B. Coli Streptococci B. Welchii
11.1.38	1	1	—
9.2.38	10	3	—
8.3.38	0	1	—
5.4.38	0	0	—
10.5.38	4	1	—
8.6.38	46	1	—
20.7.38	2	2	—
23.8.38	0	0	—
20.9.38	1	0	—
18.10.38	2	1	—
29.11.38	1	0	—
29.12.38	0	0	—

Bacteriological Examinations of Water.

Mid-Kent Charing Supply.
(Taken by Mid-Kent Water Co.)

Date of Examination	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 22°C.	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 37°C.	B. Coli Streptococci B. Welchii
11.1.38	1	1	—
8.2.38	0	0	—
9.3.38	2	0	—
19.4.38	0	0	—
10.5.38	1	1	—
21.6.38	0	0	—
12.7.38	1	0	—
9.8.38	0	1	—
13.9.38	0	1	—
11.10.38	0	0	—
15.11.38	0	0	—
13.12.38	0	1	—

Bacteriological Examinations of Water.

South Kent Water Co.—Headcorn Supply.
(Taken by Health Department).

Date of Examination	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 22°C.	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 37°C.	B. Coli Presumptive
23.2.38	0	0	Absent
7.4.38	0	0	—
5.5.38	0	0	—
2.6.38	2	0	—
7.7.38	9	0	—
4.8.38	4	0	—
1.9.38	0	0	—
6.10.38	2	2	—
3.11.38	16	—	—
1.12.38	4	2	—

Bacteriological Examinations of Water.

Mid-Kent—Stockbury and Lenham Supplies.

(Taken by Health Department).

Date of Examination	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 22°C.	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 37°C.	B. Coli
23.2.38	0	1	Absent
7.4.38	0	1	—
21.4.38	0	0	—
5.5.38	0	1	—
12.5.38	172	0	—
2.6.38	0	0	—
9.6.38	38	0	—
7.7.38	4	6	—
14.7.38	44	0	—
4.8.38	8	0	—

Bacteriological Examinations of Water.

Mid-Kent—Stockbury and Lenham Supplies.

(Taken by Health Department).

Date of Examination	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 22°C.	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 37°C.	B. Coli
11.8.38	20	0	—
1.9.38	1	0	—
8.9.38	46	0	—
18.10.38	0	0	—
6.10.38	0	0	—
3.11.38	0	0	—
10.11.38	0	2	—
1.12.38	0	0	—
8.12.38	48	10	—

Bacteriological Examinations of Water.

Mid-Kent—Newnham Supply.

(Taken by Mid-Kent Water Co.)

Date of Examination	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 22°C.	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 37°C.	B. Coli B. Welchii Streptococci
18.1.38	3	1	—
8.2.38	10	0	—
8.3.38	8	0	—
19.4.38	2	2	—
10.5.38	0	0	—
21.6.38	0	0	—
12.7.38	0	1	—
9.8.38	0	0	—
13.9.38	0	0	—
11.10.38	176	47	—
15.11.38	51	2	—
13.12.38	2	1	—

Bacteriological Examinations of Water.

Ulcombe Supply—Homesby Court Reservoir.

(Taken by Health Department).

Date of Examination	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 22°C.	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 37°C.	B. Coli Presumptive
9.2.38	35	5	Present in 90 c.c.
10.3.38	56	11	Absent
7.4.38	2	2	Present in 70 c.c.
5.5.38	42	16	Present in 100 c.c.
2.6.38	25	1	Present in 90 c.c.
7.7.38	182	10	Present in 1 c.c.
4.8.31	38	4	Present in 40 c.c.
1.9.38	48	15	Present in 90 c.c.
8.9.38	8	4	Present in 30 c.c.
(Spring)	78	2	Present in 80 c.c.
6.10.38	146	0	Present in 50 c.c.
3.11.38	126	2	Present in 90 c.c.
1.12.38	90	2	Present in 80 c.c.

Bacteriological Examinations of Water.

Rainham Water Co.—Bredhurst Supply.

(Taken by Health Department).

Date of Examination	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar in 22°C.	No. of colonies per ml. developing upon Agar at 37°C.	B. Coli
23.3.38	3	1	Absent
21.4.38	12	2	—
12.5.38	63	0	—
9.6.38	20	4	—
14.7.38	42	5	—
11.8.38	28	0	Present in 90 c.c.
8.9.38	20	5	Absent
18.10.38	4	2	Present in 60 c.c.
26.10.38	32	24	Absent
	5	1	—
10.11.38	28	0	—
8.12.38	48	10	—

General Summary.

Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	...	...	14,000
Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	56,710
Persons per Acre	...	...	...	...	...	0.24
Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	13.7
Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	10.1
Births—Male 105 Female 87	...	...	...	...	...	192
Deaths—Male 85 Female 85	...	...	...	...	...	170
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	.78
Other Tuberculosis Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	.21
Cancer Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	1.71
Pneumonia (all forms) Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	.50

